

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the final Office Action mailed August 30, 2006.

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26-44 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the latest Office Action dated August 30, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26-40 and 44. Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26-40 and 44 are herein cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute cancelled claims in continuation applications. Claims 45-79 are added. Independent Claim 45 is supported by original Claim 41. Claims 46-79 are supported in the application as filed by original Claims 2-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 23, 27-34 and 37-38.

Claims 41-43 and 45-79 remain for the Examiner's consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 23 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 23 and 44 have been cancelled.

Claims 23 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 23 and 44 have been cancelled.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12, 14, 21, 23, 35-40, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ferree (U.S. Publication No.: 2004/0106998).

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12, 14, 21, 23, 35-40 and 44 are cancelled.

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 23-40, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wagner et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,706,070).

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 23-40 and 44 are cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ferree (U.S. Publication No.: 2004/0106998), in view of Marnay (WO 01/01893).

Claims 15-20 are cancelled.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

No fee is believed due in connection with this paper. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Anthony G. Craig/
Anthony G. Craig
Reg. No. 50,342

FLIESLER MEYER LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone: (415) 362-3800
Email: ACraig@fdml.com
Customer No.: 23910